



# The Danger Gang

Author: Tom Fletcher

Illustrator: Shane Devries

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## Synopsis

Franky can't wait to move to his new town - although he wishes he didn't have to leave his best friend Dani behind. But everything changes after the storm, when strange green lightning and powerful thunder crash down on the town. From that night on, the kids who live on Franky's street start to change. One by one, they become a little odd. A little unusual. A little... magical. Franky's always wanted to be part of an amazing gang - just like his hero, super-spy Zack Danger! And soon, he realises that there's real danger in store for himself and his new friends. And so the Danger Gang is born...

## Author Bio

Tom Fletcher is one of the UK's bestselling authors for children. He is the creator of *The Christmasaurus*, which was the biggest debut middle-grade novel of 2016, as well as being one half of the duo behind the *Dinosaur That Pooped* picture book series, which has sold over a million copies.

Tom is also a musician, Guinness World Record holder and vlogger. His YouTube channel has had almost 100 million video views and 630 thousand subscribers.

Tom's books have been translated into thirty-two languages and his most recent is called *There's A Dragon in Your Book*.



## Illustrator Bio

Shane Devries is an illustrator from Adelaide, Australia.

He began working as an architectural illustrator and has worked as a graphic designer and now creates visual development art for animation productions and illustrates books.

Shane enjoys visiting art galleries, running and travelling and if possible he would spend countless hours gardening in his veggie patch.

He has illustrated a number of books for acclaimed South Australian author Phil Cummings including, 'Boy' (Winner of the Children's Peace Literature Award 2017, Notable Book 2018 and was shortlisted for Book of the Year in the Early Childhood category).

## Curriculum Links

### English Year 3

ACELT1601 Create imaginative texts based on characters, settings and events from students' own and other cultures using visual features, for example perspective, distance and angle

### English Year 4

ACELT1607 Create literary texts that explore students' own experiences and imagining

ACELT1605 Discuss how authors and illustrators make stories exciting, moving and absorbing and hold readers' interest by using various techniques, for example character development and plot tension

ACELY1690 Identify characteristic features used in imaginative, informative and persuasive texts to meet the purpose of the text

### Design and Technologies Processes and Production Skills Year 3 and 4

ACTDEP015 Generate, develop, and communicate design ideas and decisions using appropriate technical terms and graphical representation techniques

## Themes

- Adventure
- Magic
- Responsibility
- Superpowers

### English

This book uses a highly illustrated style that has become increasingly popular. What techniques have Tom Fletcher and Shane Devries used to help make this book so appealing?

Is it the:

- Illustrations?
- Humour?
- Characters?
- Storyline?

Tom and Shane have worked together on a number of other books with similar designs/styles:

- Christmasaurus
- The Christmasaurus and the Winter Witch
- The Creakers.

Have a look at these titles and look at the layout.

How are they the same or different to The Danger Gang?

After the crazy storm, Franky and his friends start to 'change'.

- Eric turned into shark, because he wanted to be a better swimmer.
- Mollie turned invisible, because she was so embarrassed she just wanted to disappear.
- Ronnie turned into a baby when he started crying
- Suzy turned into a giant pumpkin when her parents were ignoring her.

Have you even been in a situation where you would like to be able to turn into something else?

Write 'a day in the life' story about what it would be like to change or turn into something else. Why did you choose to change in that particular way?

### Letter Writing

This story is told using the letters that Franky writes to his best friend Dani.

We read Franky's letters, but we never read Dani's replies. Choose one of Franky's letters and write a reply from Dani to Franky.

Imitate Franky's style and use pictures in your letter, and large letters to emphasize different words.



**I KEEP TELLING MUM TO MAKE IT FLY!**  
 A hoverboard would be SO awesome and I know she could totally do it. Dad says we wouldn't need to pay something called 'road tax' then, because technically we wouldn't be using the road, but Mum says there are better things to invest than hoverboards.

**AS IF!**

**FRANKY'S TOP THREE THINGS MUM SHOULD INVENT**

- HOVERCAR
- HOVERBEDS
- HOVERBRIE

I have a huge list of super awesome stuff for her to invent for me, including those outrageous hoverboards I've been banging on about for over a year.



**BUT NO!** No anti-grav boots (YES, Not even hover-slipper!) Just a pencil case. (OK, the pencil case is pretty cool).

Mum also invents super-awesome stuff, but she keeps it hidden away in her **HSL** (Home Science Lab, which is just a storage space for the garage).



It's cool having a real science lab in our house, but the rules are pretty basic:

**MUM'S HOME SCIENCE LAB RULES**  
**! DANGER !!!**

- The HSL is off limits to everyone except Mum.
- This is not a garage; it is a scientific research centre.
- No children, no toddlers and no bullfrogs in the HSL Science! only!

### Design and Technologies Processes and Production Skills Year 3 and 4

#### Invention

Franky's mum is a scientist, and an inventor. She has a lab in their new house full of inventions, such as:

- Pancake-O-Matic - Makes pancakes automatically
- Luggage-Shrink-O-Zap - Shrinks your suitcases, so that you can take as much luggage as you like on holidays.
- Kid-Shutter-Upper - Keeps children quiet for 5 minutes

Ask students to think of their own invention. It can be as whacky and improbable

as they like, but they have to be able to create a design for it, explain what it does and how it would work.

As part of the design plan, think of possible pitfalls (ie the Auto-Nappy-Changer that doesn't know the difference between Franky and his baby brother Max! ) and factor this into their design. Students present their design to the class.